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'Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed'

By AAMER MADHANI, COLLEEN LONG and DIDI TANG

Associated Press

WOODSIDE, Calif. (AP) — U.S. President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping plunged into their first face-to-face meeting in a year Wednesday, intent on working to stabilize fraught relations and showing the world that while they are global economic competitors they're not locked in a winner-take-all faceoff.

"Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed," Xi told Biden.

The U.S. president told Xi: "I think it's paramount that you and I understand each other clearly, leader-to-leader, with no misconceptions or miscommunications. We have to ensure competition does not veer into conflict."

The two warmly shook hands as they made a red carpet entrance to a bucolic Northern California estate for hours of work on detangling a multitude of tensions.

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President Joe Biden greets China's President Xi Jinping at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, Calif., Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference.

Associated Press
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'Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed'

From Front

Their meeting, on the sidelines of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, has far-reaching implications for a world grappling with economic cross currents, conflicts in the Middle East and Europe, tensions in Taiwan and more.

Both leaders acknowledged the importance of their relationship and the need for better coordination. But their differences shone through: Xi indicated he wants better cooperation — but on China's terms. And he sought to project strength to his domestic audience in the face of U.S. policies restricting imports from China and limiting technology transfers to Beijing.

Biden, meanwhile, will also spend time this week in California working to highlight new alliances in the Indo Pacific and efforts to boost trade with other regional leaders.

Xi, speaking through an interpreter, declared it "an objective fact that China and the United States are different in history, culture, social system and development."

The presidents and their respective aides on trade, the economy, national security and regional diplomacy gathered across from one another at a single long table, the culmination of negotiations between the two leaders' top aides over the past several months. It was Biden and Xi's first conversation of any kind since they met last November in Bali.

They're seeking to build back to a stable baseline after already tense relations took a nosedive following the U.S. downing of a Chinese spy balloon that had traversed the continental U.S., and amid differences over the self-ruled island of Taiwan, China's hacking of a Biden official's emails and other matters. For Biden, Wednesday's meeting was a chance for the president to do what he believes he does best: in-person diplomacy.



President Joe Biden Meets with China's President President Xi Jinping at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, Calif., Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference.

Associated Press

"As always, there's no substitute for face-to-face discussions," he told Xi. With his characteristic optimism, Biden sketched a vision of leaders who manage competition "responsibly," adding, "that's what the United States wants and what we intend to do." Xi, for his part, was gloomy about the state of the post-pandemic global economy. China's economy remains in the doldrums, with prices falling due to slack demand from consumers and businesses. "The global economy is recovering, but its momentum remains sluggish," Xi said. "Industrial and supply chains are still under the threat of interruption and protectionism is rising. All these are grave problems." The relationship between China and the U.S. has never been smooth, he said. Still, it has kept moving forward. "For two large countries like China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option," he said. More pointedly, Xi also suggested it was not up to the U.S. to dictate how the Chinese manage their affairs, saying, "It is unrealistic for one side to remodel the other, and conflict and confrontation has unbearable consequences for both sides."

Robert Moritz, global chairman for the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, said business leaders are hoping for signs of more cooperation and a firmer commitment to free trade between the world's two largest economies following the Biden-Xi talks.

"What we are looking for is a de-escalation and a bringing of the temperature down," Mortiz said during a CEO summit being held in conjunction with the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum that has brought together leaders from 21 member economies.

"Discussion isn't good enough, it's the execution on getting things done" that will matter, he said.

The Biden-Xi meeting and broader summit events attracted protests around San Francisco, but the demonstrations were kept at distance. A large crowd loudly condemning Xi marched from the Chinese Consulate toward the summit venue at the Moscone Center nearly two miles away. Speakers implored the Biden administration to stand up to Xi and China's human rights violations. During their talks, Biden was expected to let Xi know that he would like China to use its sway over Iran to

make clear that Tehran or its proxies should not take action that could lead to expansion of the Israel-Hamas war. The Biden administration sees the Chinese, a big buyer of Iranian oil, as having considerable leverage with Iran, which is a major backer of Hamas.

Ahead of Wednesday's meeting, senior White House officials said Biden would walk away with more concrete results than from the leaders' last talks in November 2022. There will be agreements from China to help stop the flow of chemicals used in the production of illicit fentanyl, and to revive communications between the militaries -- increasingly important as incidents between the two nations' ships and aircraft have spiked.

While Biden was expected to defend U.S. expansion of export controls on semiconductor chips, he also was to assure Xi that the U.S. is not trying to wage economic war with Beijing. Xi, meanwhile, was looking for assurances from Biden that the U.S. will not support Taiwan independence, start a new Cold War or suppress China's economic growth. He was also keen to show the U.S. that China is still a good place to invest.

Late Wednesday, Xi was to address American business executives at a \$2,000-per-plate dinner that will be a rare opportunity for U.S. business leaders to hear directly from the Chinese leader as they seek clarification on Beijing's expanding security rules that may choke foreign investment. Foreign companies operating in China say that country's tensions with Washington over technology, trade and other issues and uncertainty over Chinese policies are damaging the business environment and causing some to reassess their plans for investing in the giant market.

Even before Biden and Xi met, there were some signs of a thaw: The State Department on Tuesday announced that the U.S. and China -- two of the world's biggest polluters -- had agreed to pursue efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030, through wind, solar and other renewables.

Biden and Xi held their talks at Filoli Estate, a country house and museum about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of San Francisco. The event was carefully staged, Biden first to arrive at the grand estate, then Xi. After their handshake and smiles they sat down with aides for talks that lasted more than two hours.

Next came a working lunch with inner-circle members from both administrations. They ate ravioli, chicken and broccolini. Almond meringue cake and praline buttercream was for dessert.

White House officials said Biden was coming into the talks bolstered by signs the U.S. economy is in a stronger position than China's, and that the U.S. is building stronger alliances throughout the Pacific.

The U.S. president, speaking at a campaign fundraiser on Tuesday evening, pointed to the upcoming meeting as an example of how "reestablished American leadership in the world is taking hold." As for China, the president told donors, it has "real problems." □

FCC adopts rules to eliminate 'digital discrimination'

By MATT BROWN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

Federal Communications Commission has enacted new rules intended to eliminate discrimination in access to internet services, a move which regulators are calling the first major U.S. digital civil rights policy.

The rules package, which the commission ratified on Wednesday, would empower the agency to review and investigate instances of discrimination by broadband providers to different communities based on income, race, ethnicity and other protected classes.

The order also provides a framework for the FCC to crack down a range of digital inequities including the disparities in the investment of services for different neighborhoods, as well as the "digital divide," a term experts use to describe the complete lack of internet access many communities experience due to regional or socioeconomic inequality.

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said that Congress required the agency to adopt rules address-



Google logos are shown when searched on Google in New York, Sept. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

ing digital discrimination, through bipartisan infrastructure legislation passed at the start of the Biden administration.

"The digital divide puts us at an economic disadvantage as a country and disproportionately affects communities of color, lower-income areas, and rural areas," Rosenworcel said in a statement to The Associ-

ated Press.

"We know broadband is essential infrastructure for modern life, and these rules will bring us one step closer to ensuring everyone has access to the internet, no matter who they are or where they live," she said. Poorer, less white neighborhoods were found to have received lower investment in broadband infrastructure

and offered worse deals for internet service than comparatively whiter and higher-income areas. That inequity in access "was especially pronounced during the pandemic," the chairwoman said.

There is no clear standard for tracking inequities in the provision of digital services, though communities impacted by other discrimi-

natory practices such as redlining and rural disinvestment report worse rates of service or outright lack of access. The FCC hopes its new rules will streamline the process for reporting such issues to establish an official record of discrimination going forward.

The rules allow the agency to examine whether an internet service provider knowingly discriminated against a community in how it built, upgraded or maintained internet access, as well provide a framework for determining whether a proposed service plan would create a "discriminatory effect" that couldn't otherwise be avoided by reasonable steps.

"While the intent of the statute is to apply pressure to internet service providers in order to avert discrimination, it also eases the responsibility of states and localities who are receiving (federal infrastructure) funds to have that same responsibility," said Nicol Turner Lee, director of the Center for Technology Innovation at The Brookings Institution. □

A suspicious letter to the top elections agency in Kansas appears harmless, authorities say

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The

substance in a suspicious letter sent to the top elections agency in Kansas doesn't appear to have been hazardous, and the mail appeared unrelated to threatening letters sent to election offices in other states, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation said Wednesday.

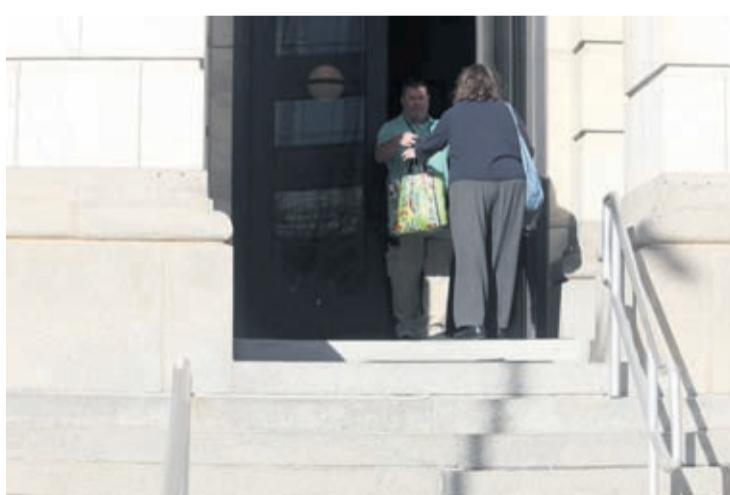
The letter delivered Tuesday to the Kansas secretary of state's office prompted authorities to evacuate its building just before noon and keep it closed for the rest of the day.

The KBI said it has identified a suspect in Tuesday's incident, though no arrest was

announced.

The KBI also said it has no reason to believe the letter

was connected to threatening letters containing a harmless white powder



A law enforcement officer inside the building that houses the Kansas secretary of state's office hands a bag to a worker who has come to retrieve it after the building was evacuated because the office received suspicious mail, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, in Topeka, Kan.

sent in June to dozens of Republican legislators in Kansas, Montana and Tennessee.

While authorities are still waiting on final tests of the substance in Tuesday's letter, preliminary testing indicated it was not harmful, KBI spokesperson Melissa Underwood said in an emailed statement. The secretary of state's building reopened Wednesday morning.

"Law enforcement has identified the person they believe sent the suspicious letter," Underwood said. "The investigation is ongoing."

Tuesday's incident in Kansas occurred less than a week after election offices

in at least five states received threatening mail, some containing the potentially dangerous opioid fentanyl. The motivation of anyone responsible for suspicious mail in the other states was unclear.

The KBI did not disclose a potential motive for the latest Kansas letter, and no arrests have been announced over the letters sent in June. Secretary of State Scott Schwab is a Republican who has pushed back against baseless theories about the 2020 election being stolen.

The secretary of state's building is near the Kansas Statehouse and also houses the offices of the state's attorney general. □

Associated Press

New Hampshire defies national Democrats' new calendar and sets the presidential primary for Jan. 23

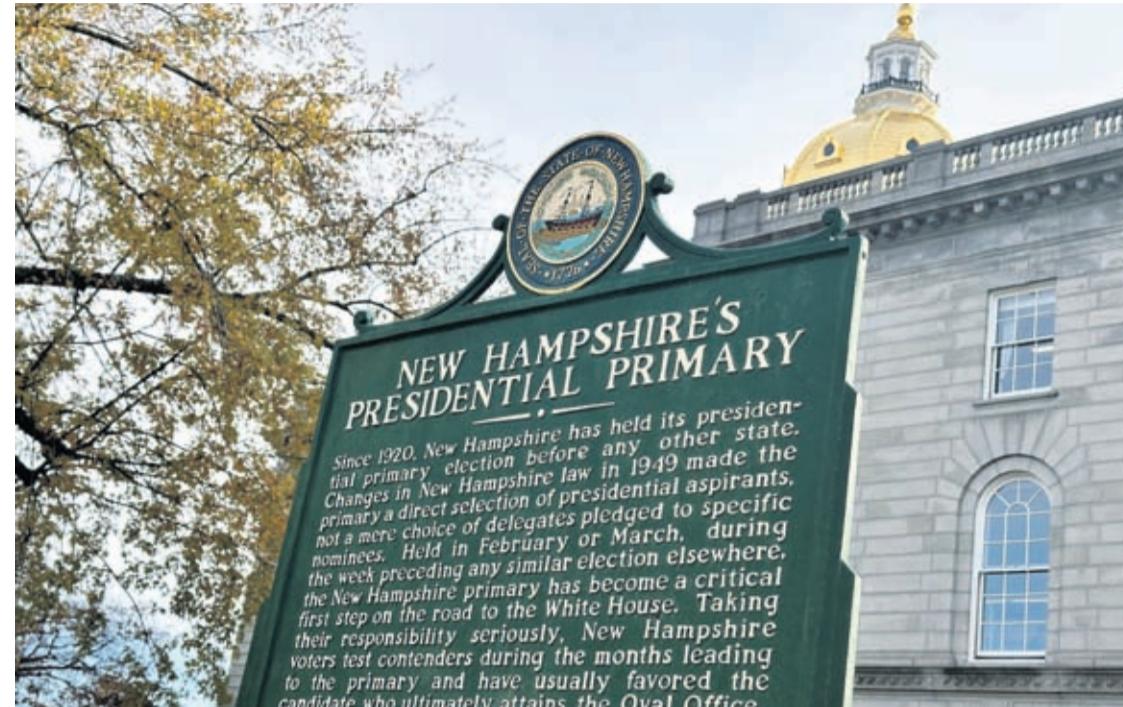
By HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) —

New Hampshire's secretary of state on Wednesday scheduled the state's presidential primaries for Jan. 23, 2024, extending its century-old streak of going first despite national Democrats' efforts to overhaul the nominating calendar. State law requires New Hampshire's Republican and Democratic primaries to be held at least seven days before any similar contest and gives the secretary of state sole authority to set the date. Like his predecessor did for decades, Secretary of State David Scanlan waited for the dust to settle in other states before announcing his decision. He chose as his backdrop the Statehouse's Hall of Flags, which displays more than 100 blood-stained and bullet-ridden battle flags carried by New Hampshire soldiers in the Civil War and onward. Calling it a memorial to those who fought for freedom and democracy, Scanlan said New Hampshire still represents those values.

"The government and polit-



A historical marker displayed outside the Statehouse in Concord, New Hampshire, on Nov. 15, 2023, describes the history of the state's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Associated Press

ical climate we have created here reflects the reason for their sacrifice and courage," said Scanlan. "In today's society, it seems that we are quick to eliminate traditions and ignore them. But I would like to think that 100 years from now, the people of this country will really be glad that we kept this one." Republicans will kick off the nominating process with the Iowa cau-

cus on Jan. 15, 2024. New Hampshire's primary eight days later will be a crucial opportunity for GOP candidates to show they can remain competitive against former President Donald Trump, the early front-runner for their party's presidential nomination. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in particular has put New Hampshire at the center of his strategy.

Iowa's Democrats also will caucus on Jan. 15, 2024, but not release the presidential results immediately to comply with new party rules sought by President Joe Biden, who argued Black and other minority voters should play a larger, earlier role. Iowa and New Hampshire are each more than 90% white. But Scanlan said that using racial diversity as "a cud-

gel" in a bid to rearrange the presidential nominating calendar sets "an ugly precedent."

"At what point does a state become too old, or too wealthy, or too educated, or too religious to hold an early primary?" he said in a news conference announcing the date.

The Democratic National Committee approved a new calendar with a primary in South Carolina, which has a large Black population, on Feb. 3, 2024, followed three days later by Nevada. The schedule also moves Michigan into the group of early states voting before Super Tuesday on March 5, 2024, when most of the rest of the country holds primaries.

There will be 24 Republicans on the ballot in New Hampshire and 21 Democrats. Biden won't appear on the New Hampshire ballot and isn't planning to campaign there, though some of the state's top Democrats are organizing a write-in campaign backing his reelection bid. Scanlan called Biden's decision a "sad choice." □

Discrimination charge filed against Michigan salon after owner's comments on gender identity

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A

hair salon in northern Michigan is facing a discrimination charge from the state's Department of Civil Rights after its owner posted on social media earlier this year that anyone identifying as other than a man or a woman is not welcome at her business.

The department claims in the charge filed Wednesday that Traverse City's Studio 8 Hair Lab violated the state's civil rights act in a Facebook post in July from its owner, Christine Geiger, by unlawfully discriminating against three claimants.

The post, which is no longer

available, read, "If a human identifies as anything other than a man/woman

please seek services at a local pet groomer. You are not welcome at this salon.



Christine Geiger cuts a customer's hair at her salon, July 12, 2023, in Traverse City, Mich.

Associated Press

Period. Should you request to have a particular pronoun used please note we may simply refer to you as 'hey you.'

A hearing will now be scheduled before an administrative law judge, who will issue a recommendation after hearing the merits of the complaint, according to the civil rights department. The recommendation will then go before Michigan's Civil Rights Commission to either adopt or make their own ruling.

Penalties, according to the complaint, could include monetary compensation for the claimants' emotional distress and mental anguish sustained by the

discrimination. The department allows for any other relief "as the commission seems just and proper," which could include additional fees and a recommendation that the business' license be suspended.

Geiger, who did not respond to a request for comment by email, filed her own complaint against the city of Traverse City and the three individuals on Oct. 25. The complaint accuses the city and three of its residents of violating the salon's First Amendment rights for filing civil rights complaints, according to the lawsuit obtained by The Associated Press. □

U.N. Security Council schedules a vote on a resolution urging humanitarian pauses

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

After four failed attempts, the U.N. Security Council scheduled a vote Wednesday on a resolution which would call for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip" in the Israel-Hamas war.

The final draft watered down language from a "demand" to a "call." It also watered down a demand for "the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups" to a call.

Malta, which sponsored the resolution, called for the vote after lengthy negotiations. Several diplomats said they expect it to be adopted. That requires nine "yes" votes from the 15-member council and no veto by any of its five permanent members: the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France.

The draft resolution makes no mention of a cease-fire. It also doesn't refer to



Palestinians displaced by the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip prepare bread in a UNDP-provided tent camp in Khan Younis, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023.

Associated Press

Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 that killed around 1,200 people and took some 240 others hostage.

Nor does it cite Israel's retaliatory airstrikes and ground offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza that Gaza's health

ministry says has killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children.

The draft asks that "all parties comply with their obligations under international law, notably with regard to the protection of civilians,

especially children." U.N. Security Council resolutions are legally binding, but in practice many parties choose to ignore the council's requests for action.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the International

Crisis Group, said the Security Council has called for cease-fires in wars from the Balkans to Syria "with little or no impact."

The Security Council, which has the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, has been paralyzed since the war began by its internal divisions. This is especially the case between China and Russia, which want an immediate cease-fire, and the United States, which has called for humanitarian pauses but objects to any mention of a cease-fire which its close ally Israel strongly opposes.

The resolution calls for humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a "sufficient number of days" for unhindered access by the U.N., Red Cross and other aid groups to get water, electricity, fuel, food and medical supplies to all those in need. It says the pauses also should allow for repair of essential infrastructure and enable urgent rescue and recovery efforts. □

UNESCO urges Cambodia not to forcibly evict residents of Angkor Wat temple complex

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — UNESCO is urging Cambodian authorities not to carry out forced evictions at the renowned Angkor Wat temple complex, after Amnesty International detailed the impact on evicted residents and accused the U.N. cultural agency of failing to challenge the Cambodian government over the issue.

UNESCO has now ordered Cambodia to submit a new report on the state of conservation of Angkor Wat by Feb. 1, and says that it should include a response to Amnesty's findings. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said Wednesday that living conditions for residents at

the World Heritage site are a "priority."

Amnesty said in a report Tuesday that the evictions of an estimated 10,000 families by Cambodian authorities since last year violated

international and national law. It said that the evicted people have received little or no compensation and that the government's two main resettlement sites have inadequate facilities

in terms of roads, water and electricity supplies and sanitation.

UNESCO said the report "provides new light on the situation on the ground," and invited Amnesty representatives to the agency's Paris headquarters to discuss it. UNESCO said in a statement to The Associated Press that it "calls on the Cambodian authorities to make an explicit commitment not to carry out forced evictions in Angkor and to ensure that all necessary corrective measures are put in place urgently to ensure full respect of all human rights for those communities concerned."

There are more than 1,200 World Heritage sites worldwide. Angkor Wat was

given that status in 1992, in part because of fears that the growth of human settlements on the site posed a possible threat to its preservation.

However, the designation was not clear regarding existing settlements, which until last year were left basically undisturbed, the Amnesty report said. Cambodia is now keen to develop the area for tourism, which lapsed during the coronavirus pandemic.

Opening a conference on Angkor Wat, Azoulay said Wednesday: "The aspirations and living conditions of local residents should be further taken into consideration, as requested by the World Heritage Committee. □



Tourists line up for stepping up Angkor Wat temple outside Siem Reap, Cambodia, on Dec. 31, 2017.

Associated Press

It's not yet summer in Brazil, but dangerous heat wave is sweeping the country

By ELÉONORE HUGHES and DIANE JEANTET
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It's still spring in Brazil, but a dangerous heat wave is sweeping across large swathes of the country, forcing Rio de Janeiro's vendors off the streets due to health alerts and driving up energy demand amid reports of power outages. Most Brazilian states face "great danger" from the heat, according to the National Institute of Meteorology. The institution issued a red alert for the center-west, southeast and parts of the north warning of "a high probability of major damage and accidents, with risks to physical integrity or even human life."

The heat index, a combination of temperature and humidity, hit 58.5 degrees Celsius (137 Fahrenheit) Tuesday morning in Rio, the highest index ever recorded there. Actual temperatures dropped slightly on Wednesday, but were forecast to rise again to 40 degrees Celsius (104 F) on



People cool off in a water fountain at Madureira Park amid a heat wave in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023.

Thursday.

Cariocas as residents of Rio are known have always seen sun, heat and the beach as part of their identity, said Núbia Beray, coordinator of Rio de Janeiro Federal University's Geo-Clima laboratory. But this is too much even for many of them, she said. "Cariocas

come home from work in buses without air conditioning. Street vendors cannot work because they sometimes faint. The heat kills," Beray said. Extreme heat can affect breathing, kidneys, and the heart, with the very young and elderly particularly at risk. "Maximum 39°C and

it's not even summer yet," Rio's city hall said Tuesday on X, formerly Twitter. The mayor's office recommended eating fruit and vegetables and keeping an umbrella handy for shade. In São Paulo, temperatures reached 37.7 degrees Celsius (99.9 F), just short of a

Associated Press

record, according to meteorology company MetSul. Mato Grosso do Sul state, in the nation's interior, recorded 43 degrees Celsius (109.4 F) last week, the record for actual temperature during this heat wave, according to the country's institute of meteorology, known by the Portuguese acronym Inmet.

Brazilians turned to fans, air conditioners and dehumidifiers to cool down, with utilities reporting record energy demand.

Power outages were reported in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Amid the high heat, wildfires are burning widely in the Pantanal biome, the world's biggest tropical wetlands spanning parts of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul states.

The fires have ravaged an area about the size of Cyprus, or more than 947,000 hectares (about 3,600 square miles), according to the Environmental Satellite Applications Laboratory of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. □

U.S. will resume food aid to millions across Ethiopia after monthslong pause

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

— The lead U.S. development agency plans to restart food aid deliveries for millions of people across Ethiopia in December, five months after it took the extraordinary step of halting its nationwide program over a massive corruption scheme by local officials. U.S. Agency for International Development officials on Wednesday described wide-ranging new reforms in handling of food aid to the East African country to try to prevent a repeat of what they have said may have been the largest theft of food aid in history.

These anti-theft measures will be tested for one year, USAID spokesperson Jessica Jennings said, adding that they "will fundamen-

tally shift Ethiopia's food aid system and help ensure aid reaches those experiencing acute food insecurity." Ethiopia is Africa's second-most populous country and one of the largest recipients of U.S. humanitarian aid due to droughts, conflict and other factors disrupting food supplies. About one-sixth of Ethiopians received food aid before discovery of the food theft early this year.

The suspension has affected 20 million Ethiopians. The AP has reported that hundreds, possibly thousands, of needy people have starved to death in the Tigray region since the suspension.

A cease-fire a year ago ended a two-year conflict in Tigray.

The theft of U.S. and U.N. food aid included the manipulation of beneficiary lists that the Ethiopian government has insisted on controlling, looting by Ethiopian government and regional Tigray forces and forces from neighboring Eritrea, and the diversion of massive amounts of donated wheat to commercial flour mills in at least 63 sites, a senior USAID official earlier told the AP.

USAID and the U.N.'s World Food Program suspended food aid to Ethiopia's Tigray region in mid-March after uncovering the colossal scheme.

The two agencies halted their programs across the country in early June after discovering the theft was nationwide. They blamed



An Ethiopian woman scoops up portions of wheat to be allocated to each waiting family after it was distributed by the Relief Society of Tigray in the town of Agula, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on May 8, 2021.

Associated Press

conflict in the country for interrupting their oversight of aid delivery.

The planned resumption of aid comes after the agency reintroduced reforms to improve the registration of beneficiaries and the tracking of donated grain, Jennings said Tuesday.

New measures range from

on-the-ground GPS tracking of food delivery trucks and spot checks of grain warehouses and mills to insisting that USAID's humanitarian partners share joint approval with Ethiopian officials of the beneficiary lists for donated grain and other food aid, USAID said. □

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Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask



to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flee markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com





Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where 'life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not



leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in. The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

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Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was

not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort



Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of

the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba
by Jan Hartog.



Aruba to me

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Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928,

that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public.

The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well



as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because

of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban

culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.□



Source: Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas

Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between

the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love bird found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been



discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This

shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-

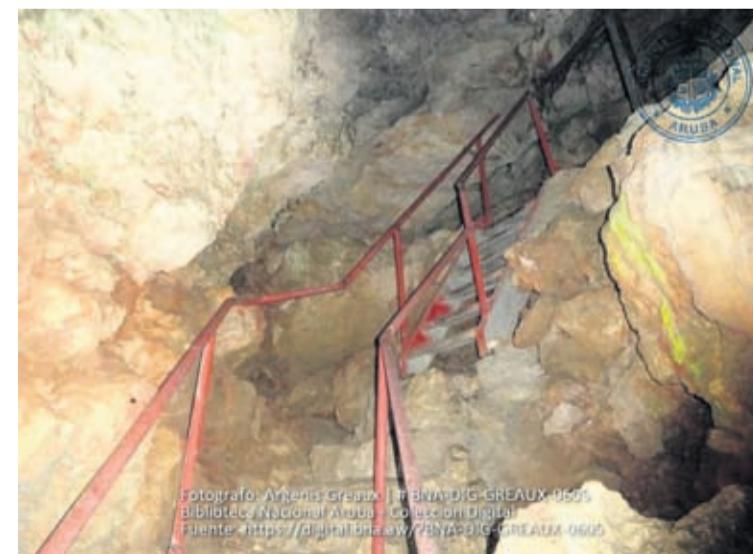


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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Barber symbol

5 Burglar's crime

10 Diva's piece

11 Sports spots

12 Calls on

13 Entertain at bed-time

14 Sofa for two

16 Complete tie

20 Musical transitions

23 Carnival setting

24 Complains

25 Temperamental

27 Broad st.

28 Makes fun of

29 Reporter's specialty

32 Diet fare

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41 Folk learning

42 Year divisions

43 Gold-filled fort

DOWN

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2 Words of approximation

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5 Tire feature

6 Moor plant

7 Wrap up

8 Obese Chinese

11 Provinces

15 Espies

17 Amorous archer

18 Staff member

25 Nasty

26 Creamer

28 Diving

30 Glossy

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ASIAN	OLIVE	
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ELMS	PENN	

Yesterday's answer

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40					41				
42					43				

11-16

AXYDIBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

R B W S K Z C M C Z F B Y C E E C K

Z F J K O P V K Y C E E C K R A I B R R .

— O B C S O B I W P F J K O Z C K

Y W S T B S

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOW INAPPROPRIATE TO CALL THIS PLANET EARTH WHEN IT IS QUITE CLEARLY OCEAN.
ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Want to buy now, pay later this holiday season? Ask yourself these 5 questions first



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

By JACKIE VELING of Nerd-Wallet

Shoppers gearing up for the 2023 holiday season won't have to look hard for a convenient way to pay for all those presents.

"Buy now, pay later," a type of payment plan that divides the total cost of your purchase into smaller installments, is offered at most major retailers, including Walmart, Target and Amazon. It's expected to fuel \$17 billion in online holiday spending this year up almost 17% from 2022 according to forecast data from Adobe Analytics, an analytics and measurement tool from software company Adobe.

The short application, immediate approval decision and no hard credit check can make buy now, pay later seem like a no-brainer financing option, but experts say it's risky. Ask yourself these five questions before opting in.

1. DOES THIS PLAN CHARGE INTEREST?

While most shoppers will encounter zero-interest pay-in-four plans which divide the cost of your

purchase into four equal installments with the first due at checkout, and the remaining three due every two weeks longer, interest-bearing payment plans are becoming more common.

These plans range from months to years and charge an annual percentage rate of up to 36%, depending on the provider.

You'll want to avoid interest since it adds to the cost of your holiday purchases. But even if you get a zero-interest offer, make sure you can cover the installments, says Vaishali Shah, a certified financial planner based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

"With a 0% interest rate, it seems like no risk," she says. "But I want consumers to know they're still obligating themselves to these payments."

2. WHAT ARE THE FEES?

Though some buy now, pay later providers promise zero fees, many charge late fees, which are typically around \$7 or \$8 per missed payment.

Providers may also charge

installment fees, account reactivation fees, card payment fees, payment rescheduling fees or service fees. These fees range from \$1 to \$15.

Read the loan terms carefully and keep in mind that there can be fees on the other side of the transaction. If the buy now, pay later provider withdraws a payment that causes an overdraft of your bank account, your bank may charge a fee.

3. DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO PAY IT OFF?

Overextension or taking on more debt than you can afford is one of the biggest risks of using buy now, pay later, partly because of the delayed payment structure.

For example, a \$100 purchase becomes \$25 at checkout with a no-interest, pay-in-four plan. This can lead shoppers to buy more or make a habit of splitting up purchases.

Todd Christensen, an accredited financial counselor based in Boise, Idaho, says he often sees clients opt in to multiple, small-dollar buy now, pay later loans without realizing how the payments add up.

"It's the trend of shopping by monthly payment rather than price," Christensen says. "So we make a little payment here, a little payment there, and then pretty soon every dollar of our income and then some is spoken for."

Take into account your other obligations and know how you'll cover each installment before signing up for buy now, pay later.

4. WILL YOU NEED TO MAKE A RETURN?

If there's a chance you'll need to return a holiday gift, it may be best to avoid buy now, pay later altogether. Buy now, pay later returns can be tricky because they need to go through two parties: the store you bought the merchandise from and the buy now, pay later provider that financed it.□

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Few community college students go on to earn 4-year degrees

By CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

After delaying college for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jaden Todd wasn't sure a four-year school was the right place to start.

"I was extremely concerned that I forgot how to learn," he said.

Community college appealed as a stepping stone, but he also had heard stories of students who had to start over when they transferred because their credits didn't count at the new school.

Todd, 21, was relieved to wind up at Northern Virginia Community College's ADVANCE program, a partnership with George Mason University that put him on a clear path to his goal of a bachelor's degree in computer science. Such established arrangements between two- and four-year colleges and universities have shown promise in helping more community college students go on to earn bachelor's degrees, according to data released Thursday by U.S. Education Department.

Only 13% of federal financial aid recipients who enrolled in community college in 2014 received a bachelor's degree within eight years, the data found.

Hundreds of thousands

of those who enroll annually at the more affordable two-year schools plan to transfer to a four-year program at a college or university, but obstacles get in the way. Frequently, students lack the guidance they need to navigate the transfer, and their credits don't transfer the way they planned.

"Our current higher education system stacks the deck against community college students who aspire to earn four-year degrees," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said ahead of a gathering of 200 higher education leaders convened Thursday by his department to examine state and school transfer policies.

The new data tracked roughly 620,000 federal financial aid recipients. The outcomes are especially concerning for Black, Hispanic and low-income students, who are more likely to start at community colleges.

Colleges in New Jersey, New York and Illinois graduated the most transfer students, with schools in South Dakota, Delaware, Indiana and New Mexico recording the lowest numbers.

"One of the things that I think has really played a pivotal role in transfer student success is our goal to make as much information



Education Secretary Miguel Cardona speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in his office at the Department of Education, Sept. 20, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

transparent," said Alicia Alvero, associate vice chancellor for academic and faculty affairs at the City University of New York. CUNY relies on an online transfer explorer, known as T-Rex, that makes it easier for students to see which of their courses will transfer between campuses, Alvero said. □



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Caya G.F.

Dolly Parton's new album is a detour from country music; Could R&B be next?

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Last year, Dolly Parton was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame against her wishes.

Now, almost exactly a year later, she's releasing her first rock 'n' roll album, appropriately titled "Rockstar," on Friday.

In 2022, Parton shared a statement announcing that she didn't feel she had "earned" the right to be nominated, but the Hall inducted her anyway.

"I just didn't think that I had done enough in the rock world to be considered, to be put in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame when there were so many great rock artists that are not even in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame," Parton told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

"They were going to put me in anyway, so I just accepted it gracefully. But I thought, 'Well, I'm going to have to earn my keep,'" she says. Parton once thought she'd record a "Linda Ronstadt-type rock album," but had felt she was getting too old. This presented a fresh opportu-



Dolly Parton poses for a picture before the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Ceremony at Gotham Hall in New York on Oct. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

nity.

"I jumped on that like a duck on a Junebug," she laughs.

She started covering some of her favorite rock 'n' roll classics. Some tracks feature the original artists: "Every Breath You Take" with Sting, "Baby, I Love Your Way" with Peter Frampton, "Heart of Glass" with Debbie Harry, "Heartbreaker"

with Pat Benatar. Some are creative collaborations: "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" with Pink and Brandi Carlile, "Night Moves" with Chris Stapleton, "Stairway to Heaven" with Lizzo on flute. She wanted Mick Jagger and Lionel Richie, but the timing didn't work. She did, however, manage to reunite the Beatles. Sort of. Long before the release of

"Now and Then," Parton asked Paul McCartney if he would sing on a cover of "Let It Be."

"He said, 'Yeah, I'd be happy to play on it, too, if you want me to,'" and I thought, 'Oh my god, I've died and gone to heaven,'" she says. Then Ringo Starr replaced the drums they'd recorded on the track.

Earlier this year, Starr told

the AP he's working on a country music EP to which Parton reacts, "I'll join them if they want me to!"

"I'd definitely do some country singing for some of the rockers going country," she says.

"Rockstar" also features nine original songs. Some have been unearthed the lovelorn "My Blue Tears," for example, was written when Parton was with "The Porter Wagoner Show" in the late 1960s and early '70s, and the cheeky "I Dreamed About Elvis" was written over two decades ago. It features the '50s vocal quartet Jordanaires, recorded right before they broke up in 2013, and Ronnie McDowell, who plays the Elvis character in the song.

"I had him come in and do the Elvis voice on it, just to kind of sum up that whole story about Elvis," she says. She's referring to the now-infamous event in which Elvis Presley said he wanted to record her hit, "I Will Always Love You."

She turned him down because Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, wanted half of the song's publishing rights. □

Matthew Perry's 'Friends' costars reminiscence about late actor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Matthew Perry's "Friends" costars are sharing more remembrances of the star in their first personal social media posts since the actor's death last month.

Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer posted heartfelt notes about Perry, who died Oct. 28, on Instagram. The posts on Tuesday and Wednesday were accompanied by photos from the "Friends" set.

"In the last couple weeks, I've been pouring over our texts to one another. Laughing and crying then laughing again," Aniston posted Wednesday, sharing a text message where Perry sent her photo of a

script reading session where Perry made her laugh.

"Oh boy this one has cut deep... Having to say



David Schwimmer, from left, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Perry, Courteney Cox, Jennifer Aniston and Matt LeBlanc pose after "Friends" won outstanding comedy series at the 54th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sept. 22, 2002, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

goodbye to our Matty has been an insane wave of emotions that I've never experienced before," Aniston's post read.

The stars, including Lisa Kudrow, issued a joint statement a few days after Perry's death, saying they were "all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew. We were more than just cast mates. We are a family." Schwimmer posted a photo of him and Perry dressed up as "Miami Vice" characters, calling it "one of my favorite moments with you." "Now it makes me smile and grieve at the same time," Schwimmer's post said.

LeBlanc posted Tuesday: "It was an honor to share the

stage with you and to call you my friend. I will always smile when I think of you and I'll never forget you. Never." His post included one candid shot of the cast all hugging on set.

Perry was found dead last month at his Los Angeles home. After an initial investigation, the Los Angeles County coroner deferred giving a cause of death, which may take weeks to determine.

Cox shared a video clip of a "Friends" scene where her and Perry's characters are in bed, trying not to have their relationship discovered. It's an iconic moment of the show, and Cox shared a bit of backstory about filming. □

Stevenson-De Los Santos fight hopes to feed off energy for Formula One race in Las Vegas

By MARK ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Shakur Stevenson will try to win a championship in a third weight class Thursday, something that by itself would be an easy sell for a TV network and boxing promoter.

That's certainly what ESPN executives thought, and they wanted to tie in Stevenson's fight against Edwin De Los Santos for the vacant WBC lightweight world championship with the opening night of the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix.

It certainly makes sense from a programming standpoint, giving ESPN a Las Vegas lead-in as it promotes both events. Top Rank CEO Bob Arum told fighthead.com that's also why a fight will take place on the Thursday before the Super Bowl, which is Feb. 11 in Las Vegas.

"Thursday night is a very tough night to do a big fight because people have



WBO junior lightweight champion Shakur Stevenson, of Newark, N.J., arrives for a weigh-in ahead of a fight against WBC champion Oscar Valdez, in Las Vegas, Friday, April 29, 2022.

Associated Press

to work on Friday, and I'm not sure the Formula One people care about boxing," Arum said.

Top Rank president Todd duBoef said, however, other events such as the NFL draft in Las Vegas last

year had other attractions tied to them that made the overall experience a success.

"And then you link together a common media partner like we have ESPN with Formula One, it just allows

(us) to create something more," duBoef said. "And create some cohesiveness between sports franchises crossing over and cross-pollinating those fan bases and creating momentum where you can lean in on

a whole week of content rather than just one or two nights."

Though the F1 race could become a smashing success, the lead-up to the event has been accompanied by headlines of traffic nightmares for locals and sky-high ticket and hotel prices for tourists.

It was those high prices that directly affected slow early ticket sales for the fight. But as secondary race tickets and hotel room rates began to crash back to Earth, boxing officials said there has been a surge in sales for the bout. The upper portion of T-Mobile Arena will be curtained off, making the capacity about 10,000.

"We see a lot of momentum in the last 10 days," duBoef said last week. "Years ago, people would plan much more in advance. But we've seen with all of our fights and with COVID, specifically people started buying at the last minute more, and you see more demand that way." □

Rublev bloodies himself with his racket in frustration during loss to Alcaraz at ATP Finals

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Andrey Rublev grew so frustrated during a 7-5, 6-2 loss to Carlos Alcaraz at the ATP Finals on Wednesday that he repeatedly hit himself with his racket so hard that he bloodied his left knee.

Rublev had already slammed his racket to the ground during the opening game of the second set. Then when the Russian missed a shot to hand Alcaraz a break, he started beating himself as he walked to his chair and then used a towel to wipe the blood off.

Blood continued to trickle down Rublev's leg as he played on and he eventually called a trainer for treatment.

"It's OK," Rublev said of his knee.

"I get disappointed and couldn't manage."

The second-ranked Alcaraz, a 20-year-old Spaniard who is already a two-time Grand Slam champion, ended an uncharacteristic three-match losing streak following defeats to Grigor Dimitrov in Shang-

hai, Roman Safiullin in Paris and Alexander Zverev in his debut match in Turin.

"I played such a great level," Alcaraz said.

While Rublev was virtually eliminated after losing both of his opening matches, Al-

caraz boosted his chances of advancing from the round robin stage at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players.

Alcaraz will next face Daniil Medvedev.

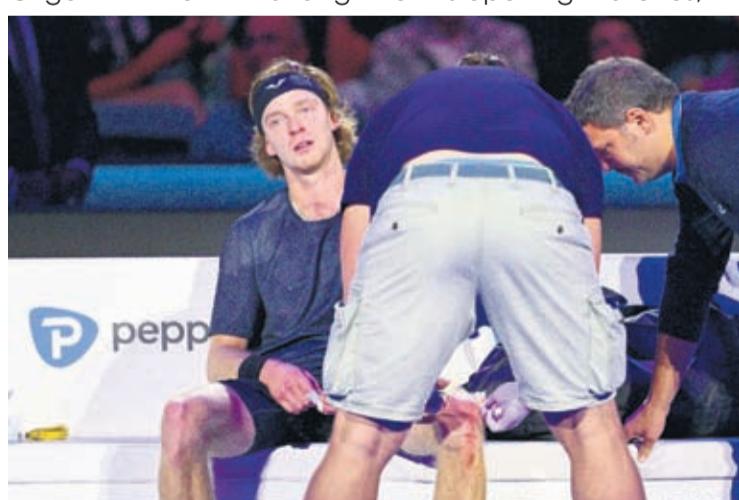
"The key against Medvedev is to play a perfect match tactically," Alcaraz said.

Later in the red group, Medvedev will meet Zverev for the 18th time.

Jannik Sinner leads the green group with two wins following his victory over Novak Djokovic on Tuesday.

The top two finishers in each four-man group advance to the semifinals.

In a first career meeting, it was a tight first set until Alcaraz broke for a 6-5 lead. Then Rublev was left fuming when the opening point of



Andrey Rublev receives medical attention after he grew so frustrated during a 7-5, 6-2 loss to Carlos Alcaraz at the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, that he repeatedly hit himself with his racket so hard that he bled his left knee.

Associated Press

the next game had to be replayed after his shot was called wide. The call was overturned on review after it was shown that the shot had landed on the line.

Rublev called it an "unlucky call."

"But it's part of the sport," he said. "It happens every match. ... Just happen that it was important (point)."

In the next game, Rublev bloodied himself.

As the second set wore on, Alcaraz began producing one highlight after another. Like when he hit a forehand cross-court passing shot as he was in the process of falling down. Or when he pulled off a backhand winner down the line from far off court on the run a couple of games later.

Alcaraz missed last year's ATP Finals because of an abdominal injury. □

Saleh says it'll be Rodgers' call to play again with Jets if he's cleared by doctors to return

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Pro Football Writer

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)

— Aaron Rodgers will have the final call on whether he plays again this season for the New York Jets if and when he gets medical clearance.

Coach Robert Saleh said Wednesday the team will defer to the four-time NFL MVP, who's rehabilitating from a torn left Achilles tendon four snaps into his debut with the Jets on Sept. 11.

"Aaron's a big boy, a grown man, and no one's going to know Aaron's body like Aaron knows his body," Saleh said. "And if he feels, after all the doc-



New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) works the sidelines during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

tors clear him and I'm sure there's a million of them, I have no idea on that stuff but if Aaron says he wants to play, he's going to play." In other words, the Jets won't stand in the way of a healthy Rodgers returning when he's ready.

Rodgers, who turns 40 on Dec. 2, has repeatedly said his goal is to return late this season. NBC's Melissa Stark reported during the telecast of the Jets' 16-12 loss to the Raiders in Las Vegas last Sunday night that his goal is to return to the field by mid-December.

While Rodgers has not said whether that could mean the Jets' road game at Miami on Dec. 17, home game against Washington on Christmas Eve or at Cleveland on Dec. 28.

But he has mentioned several times that coming back this season would be contingent on whether the Jets (4-5) are still in the playoff hunt.

"If I have a great week this week and next week, that could be accelerated," he said on "The Pat McAfee Show" on Tuesday. "If we're not in it in three or four weeks, that could take it a different way."

But I expect us to be in it and I expect to come back."

Whether that's all wishful thinking remains to be seen.

The Jets have a tough stretch coming up with AFC East matchups at Buffalo on Sunday and at home against Miami on Nov. 24 in the NFL's first game on the day after Thanksgiving. New York is then at home for consecutive games against Atlanta on Dec. 3 and Houston on Dec. 10.

While New York's defense has been playing at a high level, the offense without Rodgers has struggled mightily. Zach Wilson and the Jets enter their game Sunday at Buffalo having not scored a touchdown in their past 36 offensive possessions, a span that encompasses 11 quarters and an overtime period.□



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